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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S 80th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

BAC HO ALWAYS BY OUR SIDE

PHAM VAN DONG

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH
(*Spring* 1968)

HALF a century ago, as the dark night of servitude cast its shadows on the life of our people, a radiant name, Nguyen Ai Quoc, spread by word of mouth, carrying a new faith, as stirring as a call to arms. Ever since then, Uncle Ho shared with our people all the joys and sufferings of a long, arduous and heroic revolutionary struggle. The President's love for his people and the reciprocated affection for him by all the country are the exemplary embodiment of the ties that unite the masses to their leader, in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism as well as in the purest of our national traditions.

For the 31 million fighting Vietnamese, the President is the supreme leader and the closest companion, one who inspires our fighters and all our countrymen with a firm belief in victory. Uncle Ho is present in every home, like a father with his children. Uncle Ho is present in everyone's heart, a resplendent and pure light which illuminates from within our deepest thoughts and aspirations.

Amidst the profound sorrow felt by our entire people at the time of the President's departure, all shared the same thought, the same sentiment: Uncle Ho is not dead, he will live for ever with our mountains and rivers, with our people's revolutionary work, he will live for ever in our hearts.

Generation after generation will transmit to posterity the most noble and profound sentiments felt by everyone towards Uncle Ho, the personification of independence, freedom and happiness, the symbol of our people's deepest aspirations, those aspirations which they have sought to realize through this long historic struggle marked by two revolutions, the national democratic and the socialist.

On this 80th birthday of our President, our entire Party, our entire people think of him, our hearts filled with boundless gratitude, affection and pride. These days, we realize all the more clearly that Uncle Ho is always by our side, guiding us step by step in our combat. Our recent victories against the American aggressors and our successes in socialist construction since September last prove that our Party and our people are valiantly marching forward, continuing the great work of our President. Great is our joy when we think that Bac Ho would be pleased with the tremendous efforts we have exerted in order to carry out his last recommendations. In these days, let everyone read his testament over again so as to become better imbued with his thought and his noble feelings, to grow ever more mature, and to stand ready for more actions and more achievements.

(Excerpt from a speech delivered on the occasion of President Ho Chi Minh's 80th birth anniversary)

May 19

Today he should be
Eighty
Should be?
No
He is eighty
As he will be a hundred
As he will be a thousand
History
Will carry him along
In its upward surge.

***

The past
Comes back
To the lips of the crowd
And changes sobs
Into a man's face

He pondered
Over freedom
And grew roses
Freedom
And flowers
Spring from the same earth

He defended his Land
One among his People

For them
He endured exile
The moon split by prison bars
Misery
Hunger
Even in fetters
He believed in the sun.
For his brothers
He led the fight
A Man among Men
And justified the World
By betrothing Peace
To Independence.

One day he said
Thy body is in prison
But thy mind is not
He never was
And could not in death.

***

He lives on in our hills
And our flowers
O Viet Nam
North and South
Struggling side by side
And sharing the same Hope.

He lives on
In the eyes of the children
The resolve of the hands
And the faith in the hearts
He will be dawn over the fields

Calmed down
A wisp of factory smoke
Like a cloud
Sandals at the door
When evening comes
Friend
An open book
The song of love
Revived
The gleam of a lamp
And a bowl of white rice.

BACH LIEN
(Translated by D.T.B.)

H' Lam

(Told by an NFL cadre)

A bird was chirping, hailing daybreak in the jungle. I began packing up when I heard a silver voice: "Morning, 'cadre,' are you ready?"

I turned round and was surprised to see the messenger sent to me as a guide: a very young lass clad in blue carrying pick-a-back, a little over her short *katon* (skirt), a highland wicker basket proportionate to her size, a charming innocent little Jarai girl with bright eyes and a smiling mouth.

What the hell could I do with such a child while I was in need of a dependable guide for that difficult trip of mine? I put her at the most thirteen. The distance was not long, yet the enemy was not very far off.

I tried to set my mind at rest, as I trusted the Front local organization which saw to the safety of my journey. I had a friendly chat with the little girl.

"You've had breakfast, haven't you?" I said.

"Oh, yes, 'cadre'," she answered, "and I've brought along your snack and lunch too."

"Very good, thank you. By the way, what's your name?

"H' Lam."

"You must be very tired, mustn't you?"

"Why?"

"You got up very early and we've got a long trip ahead today..."

"I'm accustomed to. I'm afraid 'my cadre' is not."

"You think so!"

Her clear-cut replies delighted me. My apprehension began to vanish but not completely.

We set out. Our conversation resumed. I was on my guard, my tommy-gun at the ready.

H' Lam told me that her father, a valiant guerilla fighter, had killed a dozen GIs and puppet troops; that her grandfather, a patriotic worker, had carried supplies in our recent attack on Plei M'Rong post; that the villagers had inaugurated last month a beautiful communal house where grown-ups would come to discuss means of fighting the Yankees and their lackeys, and the little ones to learn the alphabet or sing.

Suddenly, she asked me slyly: "Do you know, 'cadre,' what is the most precious thing people find in that house?"

The question was quite unexpected, so I said: "I can't guess, tell me what?"

She looked at me straight in the face and lowering her voice, told me in confidence:

"A portrait of Bok Ho" (Uncle Ho).

"What?" I said in astonishment. "Where and how did you get it?"

"The respectable old villagers say they've had it ever since."

Then, raising her voice, she went on: "Do you know that, each time we come and play in the communal house, it seems that we see Bok Ho looking at us smiling?"

"Oh, yes, Bok Ho loves the children very much!"

"Is it true, 'cadre,' that many of my little friends in the North have had the opportunity of kissing Bok Ho and even stroking his goatee?"

"True, but who told you?"

"The venerable old folk."

Very pleased, H' Lam walked briskly and I was close on her heels. Suddenly, a gun report resounded and echoed far in the mountain, followed by others. She stopped, and quietly showed me a thick bush: "Go into cover there, I'll see where they come from."

"No, you cannot go alone," I said.

Without letting me finish my sentence, she gave me an imperative order: "You, my 'cadre,' must obey me, I am your guide."

I gave way submissively. With calm and self-confidence, she left me, after making sure that I was well in safety. I saw her disappear and reappear in the jungle, then climb to a tree. A while later, she came back and told me:

"These dogs block up our way. But I can muddle through. Let's go, 'cadre'."

We kept quiet. H' Lam left the mountain path, and guided me through a clearing in the direction of a big *k'nia* tree which she used as landmark. Now and then, she halted, told me to wait and climbed up on a tree to find her bearings. After a few hours' walk, we came to a tiny stream where she told me to take a rest: "We are out of harm's way here. The raided hamlet which I've just seen aflame is far behind us. The distance we still have to do is not long."

"H' Lam, you were not afraid just now?" I asked her.

"Yes, but not for me."

"Who for, then."

"For you, 'cadre.' The village folk say that the cadres are like that big *k'nia*. If it is downed, we lose our bearings and then our way in the forest."

Moved to tears, I drew the little girl toward me. Suddenly, I remembered that I had taken with me Uncle Ho's badge. I opened my bag and gave it to her.

"Bok Ho, cherished Bok Ho!" she shouted merrily.

"Yes, it is his effigy, it's for you."

"How nice!"

We resumed the journey and late in the afternoon came to M'nong village. H' Lam's errand ended there. I was given another guide for my next day's march. H' Lam was going back to her base. The parting was painful. I shook hands with her. Suddenly I noticed that she was a bit disturbed. She withdrew her hand, took the badge out of her pocket and handed it back to me without a word. "Why, you don't want to keep it?" I asked her, bewildered.

"I don't know how to explain it to you," she said. "I'm still very young and I've done nothing to deserve that badge. Bok Ho must always be by your side, so that you can guide people onto the path he charted."

I opened my note-book and showed her the page on which was printed a portrait of Uncle Ho.

"Here is another Bok Ho's picture," I said. "He is always with me."

I gave the badge back to H' Lam who thanked me profusely and set off. I saw her turn round many times to say me goodbye and then vanish in the thick jungle.

President HO waters a Vu Sua (Chrysothyllum cainito), *South Viet Nam tree offered him by our Southern compatriots*

REMINISCENCES ABOUT UNCLE HO

THE NAP ON THE ROAD

In his journeys, Uncle Ho did his best not to bother anybody. He used to bring with him precooked rice and dry foods like any other fighters in the resistance.

If he happened to take a rest on the road, he just lay down on the grass, his head reposing on a stone or a root. Without consulting one another, we observed the strictest silence.

Sometimes we brought without his knowledge a deck chair and a pillow. He always told us: "He who has brought it along will use it, the ground is good enough for me!" Though his health was a concern for us, we could not convince him to accept the least privilege over his fellow-travellers. In fact, after that siesta, he was as fresh as if he had taken his nap at home.

THE FAMOUS SANDALS

The crew of a ship was once informed of the coming visit of a government official with no further detail.

Our sailors could not believe their eyes when Uncle Ho got out of his helicopter. A voice cried out: "It's he! Look, mates! Uncle has come to see us!" And a cheer rose.

Breaking their ranks, they followed him, talking merrily. Suddenly, they saw him stop and look at his feet.

"You've stepped on my sandal's heel and a strap has slipped out," he said kindly to a sailor walking behind him.

They rushed up to him to help.

As everyone knows, Uncle Ho used to wear a pair of sandals made from old motorcar rubber tyres fastened with rubber straps. This footwear did not differ so much from ours except that it was quite worn out.

Our Uncle put on these sandals at any moment: at work, in the garden, when doing his jerks, even when he received a distinguished visitor, or travelled abroad.

"Now who can fix this for me? Let me lean against a tree first."

Our sailors escorted him joytully to the nearest tree.

Handing him back the repaired sandal, a young sailor ventured to say: "Your sandals are completely worn out. It's time to have new ones." His feeling was shared by the others who looked at the President for an answer.

Uncle shook his head and said: "They are worn out but still usable. Why spend money unnecessarily?"

DIFFICULTIES... BUT WE MUST SURMOUNT THEM

I had frequently the opportunity of escorting him in his travels. When the road was difficult and I suggested to give up the trip or to take other roads, he always said: "Is there any easy revolutionary work? Difficulties? Yes, but we must surmount them. Revolution is no cushy job."

Once, we went to T.D., located on a high mountain peak.

When lunch was over, it was noon. He called me in and asked: "Do you know a mountain track to T.D.?"

"Yes, but take a rest first before resuming our trip, please," I said.

"Let's set off right away!" he said. "We'll rest on the way."

I had to give way, but made up my mind to lead him through a flat crossroad, aware that should I take him to a mountain path, we would walk among tiger grass, ford streams and negotiate sloping mountain passes. It would be back-breaking for him.

I took the lead. At the skirt of a wood, I began to fork. Suddenly he addressed me: "You're quite familiar with this road, aren't you? Are you mistaken?"

"No" I said, "This is the right path to T.D."

"You said you knew a mountain track, why is it so flat?" he asked me incredulously.

He must have guessed my intention, for I saw him march in the van and penetrate into the forest. I only had to follow him.

He was in the habit of walking quickly, his body upright, despite his age, without a stick. Those behind him had to hurry to catch up with him. Had he to cover a difficult road section, he would take off his sandals. Had he to ford a deep stream, he would strip his clothes, keeping only his shorts. He knew how to choose a nice spot for us to take a rest, while urging us to toughen ourselves.

It was nightfall when we trudged up to a spot higher than the tree tops. The fresh mountain air whipped our faces. We had arrived.

Uncle Ho stopped and mopped beads of sweat on his large forehead. "It is real mountaineering, you see," he said. "Look at the fine landscape!"

"SPEAK KNOWINGLY!"

Once, he wanted to take a jungle track.

In my opinion, it was impassable as it was cut by deep streams and high mountains; in some spots, it touched the depth of the forest and disappeared under the tiger grasses where mosquitoes were swarming. We were in the heart of summer and it was sweltering hot.

I told him that the track was not passable.

"Why, I took it during the resistance war!" he said, astonished. "You have known it yourself. Can it be impracticable now? Get ready to go, we'll see!"

We walked for hours. The sun darted forth his hot rays. The sharp blades of grass cut scratches on our calves.

Arriving at a hill foot, he asked me: "Can we climb up that slope to take a short cut."

"I am afraid there may be a lot of bushes and that the grasses may be very high," I said evasively.

"Climb there and let me know!"

I went up the slope which had a 50° gradient. I was out of breath and my heart beat precipitately. I made up my mind to go back and say that the hill was too steep.

What was my astonishment when I saw Uncle Ho climbing more than half of it.

Then he lectured me gently: "Try to get into the habit of speaking knowingly."

Told by P.V.X.

Working on the road (during the Frontier Campaign in 1950)

President HO CHI MINH ready for a visit to the front (December 1950)

POLITICAL PROGRAMME
OF NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA

UNANIMOUSLY endorsed by the Congress of the National United Front of Kampuchea held in Peking on May 3 and 4, this Political Programme points out that the Cambodian people established an organized society more than 2,000 years ago with one of the most brilliant civilizations. They reconquered their independence as a result of a heroic struggle against French colonialism and since 1954 has been firmly resisting all manoeuvres of the US imperialists against their independence and neutrality. The US-masterminded March 18 coup d'état has installed in Phnom Penh a fascist and racist regime and Cambodia has been transformed by the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak group of US lackeys into a new "Viet Nam."

Responding to the March 23, 1970 historic call of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, the Cambodian people rose up in a political and armed struggle against the aggressors and traitors.

The aim of the FUNK Political Programme is "to realize the broadest national union against all the manoeuvres and aggression of the American imperialists, to overthrow the dictatorship of their flunkeys headed by Lon Nol - Sirik Matak, to defend the national independence, peace, neutrality, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country within her present frontiers, to establish a free and democratic regime of the people and eventually to build a prosperous Cambodia conforming to the profound aspirations of our people."

To attain these objectives the FUNK proposes the following **tasks**:

Unite and mobilize all social classes and strata, all political parties, all professional or religious organizations, all patriotic personalities living either at home or abroad, irrespective of their political opinion, sex and religious belief.

Welcome as brothers the masses of the people, and all functionaries, policemen, officers, non-commissioned officers and men in the armed forces of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique, intellectuals, students and other personalities, who have decided to join the FUNK. Those people who for various reasons cannot as yet join the FUNK but oppose the American imperialists and their flunkeys can co-ordinate their efforts with those of the FUNK and they will also be welcome with deep sympathy by the FUNK.

The FUNK will co-ordinate its struggle with that of the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam and Laos on the principle that the liberation and defence of each country are the affairs of its own people and the principle that mutual support among the three peoples must be based on mutual respect and the legitimate aspirations of each people concerned.

— Create and strengthen the National Liberation Army (ALN) comprising guerilla units, partisans, those elements in the Royal Khmer Army who refuse to submit to the dictatorship of Lon Nol - Sirik Matak, and those elements in the mercenary troops of the traitors Lon Nol and Sirik Matak who will decide in the future to join the ranks of the ALN.

— Those army units now serving the reactionary regime, which for various reasons cannot join the ALN at present but which are against the American imperialists, can co-ordinate their actions with those of the ALN against the American imperialists and their flunkeys.

— Severely punish the reactionaries guilty of crimes against the people, but show leniency to those criminals who have sincerely repented.

— The wounded and the prisoners of war will be looked after and treated humanely."

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The second part of the Political Programme deals with the **building of democratic and prosperous Cambodia**:

"Power is, and will always be, in the hands of the progressive, industrious and genuine working people who will ensure our Motherland a bright future on the basis of social justice, equality and fraternity among all the Khmers" (Proclamation of Samdech Head of State, on March 23, 1970). The people are the source of all power.

"The **democratization of the Cambodian society** is being carried out in the liberated areas at present and will be carried out in the whole country later in the following ways:

— Guarantee to all Cambodians, except patent traitors, the freedom of vote, the freedom of standing for elections, the freedom of speech, the press, opinion, association, demonstration, residence, travel at home and going abroad, etc., safeguard the inviolability of the person, property, wealth and privacy of correspondence.

— Enforce effective equality to both sexes, strive to wipe out backward traditions discriminating against women, encourage by all means the cultural and professional development of women to enable them fully to participate in the common struggle, give primary importance to training and educating women cadres at all levels in the national life; abolish polygamy.

— Buddhism is and will remain the state religion, but the FUNK recognizes and guarantees the freedom of the all other religions and creeds: Islamism, Brahminism, the belief of the Khmers-loeur, Catholicism, Protestantism, Caodaism, etc. The places of worship are protected.

— Look after with greatest solicitude our war invalids and the families of our fighters who have laid down their lives for the country, and reserve privileged treatment to them.

—Ensure the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of foreign nationals who respect our laws and customs, the independence and sovereignty of Cambodia.

— See to it that the legitimate rights and interests of the minority nationalities and Cambodian nationals living abroad are respected.

"The FUNK is devoted to building up and developing an **independent national economy** by relying principally on the resources and productive forces of Cambodia.

"This economic policy finds concrete expression in:

— Freeing the national economy from persons who engage in profiteering, smuggling, blackmarketing and inhuman exploitation of the people.

— Protecting and guaranteeing the rights of ownership of land and property in accordance with the laws of the State.

— Confiscating the land and property of traitors who are active accomplices in the pay of the American imperialists and who have committed crimes against the people. The land and property seized will be distributed among the needy peasants.

— Guaranteeing to the peasants the right of ownership of the land they cultivate; establishing a fair system on land rent and rates of interest on loans.

— Helping the peasants resolve the agrarian problem through a fair settlement of exorbitant debts.

— Helping the peasants increase production and labour productivity; protecting and developing co-operation and the good customs of mutual aid in the countryside.

— Ensuring the conditions of safe and national exploitation, the marketing and economical transportation of products.

— Encouraging the formation of trade-unions; guaranteeing security of employment and reasonable remuneration to the labouring classes; improving working conditions; ensuring a system of social insurance.

— Developing the industrialization of the country and carrying out a national industrial policy so that production will meet the principal needs of the people to the maximum; studying adequate measures for the elimination of faults in the administration of State or joint enterprises.

— Encouraging the national bourgeoisie to run well, and set up, enterprises beneficial to the people in conformity with the laws concerning wage-earners; ensuring national and uninterrupted sale of manufactured goods.

— Helping the handicraftsmen raise labour productivity and diversify their products and ensuring the sale of their products on the best conditions.

— Developing communication lines and the means of transportation.

— Safeguarding the interests of school pupils and university students, intellectuals and functionaries; providing employment for 'those without occupation' and the unemployed in accordance with their ability and helping them develop further their ability to serve the Motherland.

— Maintaining the nationalization of the banks and foreign trade.

— With regard to foreign trade, encouraging and developing export, limiting imports to equipment and products necessary to the national economy; protecting national products from foreign competition.

— Safeguarding the purchasing power of the 'riel' and paying attention to improving management of public finance.

"Alongside with democratization and the realization of the above-mentioned economic policies, the FUNK pays attention to the training of persons capable of correctly applying them. The policy of the FUNK concerning **education and culture** is based on the following points:

— Develop the good traditions of the Angkor civilization handed down to us, build a national culture on the basis of patriotism and love for the fruits of labour and love for art. Protect historical relics and monuments.

— Khmerize gradually the curricula for the different stages of education, including higher education.

— Adopt the national language as the sole official language in the public services.

— Adapt the educational programmes and methods to the needs of the country.

— Encourage and assist scientific research and experiments and encourage the efforts of those who wish to continue their studies.

— Promote research in our national history which is often distorted by foreign authors, and include our national history in the educational programmes.

— Ensure continuous education through regular supplementary training or practical training.

— Develop pre-school education: nurseries, kindergarten and pre-school classes.

— Ensure free education and provide scholarships for the needy children and youth.

— Ensure and support an extensive political, civic and cultural education among the people and the youth; help every citizen realize his duties to himself, to society and to the people; instil actively the sense of public interests and love for service to the community and of making himself useful to the people. This political, civic and cultural education should be carried out at all levels, in the ministries, public services and administrations, factories, shops, co-operatives, in the capital, provinces, districts, villages and families; develop the ideas of morality, honour, national dignity, patriotism, mutual aid, usefulness of collective labour, the sense and nobleness of making sacrifices for the people's cause, the spirit of working conscientiously and practising economy, and the respect for public property."

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The third part of the Political Programme deals with **foreign policy**:

"The foreign policy of the FUNK is one of national independence, peace, neutrality, non-alignment, solidarity and friendship with all peace- and justice-loving peoples and governments. The FUNK maintains relations of friendship and co-operation with all countries according to the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations irrespective of their political system and ideology. It will not participate in any military alliance, nor does it allow any foreign country to set up military bases or station troops and military personnel on the territory of Cambodia for the purpose of aggression against other countries. The FUNK does not accept the protection of any country or of any military alliance. In the common struggle against American imperialism, the FUNK pursues a policy of friendship, militant solidarity and co-operation with Laos and Viet Nam according to the principle that

(Continued page 7)

NEW U.S. WAR ACTS AGAINST CAMBODIA

THE DRVN Foreign Ministry on May 11 issued a statement condemning the US imperialists and the Saigon puppet administration for sending troops and warships to Phnom Penh and intensifying their war of aggression against Cambodia.

The statement said:

"At a time when nearly 100,000 US and Saigon puppet troops were conducting massive aggressive operations in the Eastern provinces of Cambodia from Rattanakiri to Svay Rieng, the US and their puppets brazenly sent to Phnom Penh thousands of Vietnamese puppet troops of Khmer origin, fostered, trained equipped and commanded by the US. More serious still, on May 9, 1970 thousands of US and Saigon puppet troops, together with more than 100 warships supported by US aircraft, launched an operation along the Mekong River, sailing up toward Phnom Penh. Western sources also revealed that the Saigon puppet administration, on US orders, intended to use naval forces to blockade the Cambodian coast and to land troops on Ream and Kompong Som."

"The above extremely serious acts," *the statement added*, "prove that the Nixon administration and the Saigon puppets, in spite of the vehement protest from Cambodian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the strong condemnation from every part of the world and from the US, continue to intensify its aggression against Cambodia in an attempt to turn that country into a military base and new-type colony of the US and carry out the policy of using Indochinese to fight Indochinese so as to prolong and extend the US war of aggression in this region."

U THANT'S CAMBODIA SPEECH IS ONLY BENEFICIAL TO U.S.

ACCORDING to Western reports, speaking on the Cambodian situation on May 5, U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, pressed for an "urgent international conference of all interested parties to try to end the Indochina war."

At a time when people in all continents, especially the American people, were vigorously condemning the US imperialists' open aggression against Cambodia, U Thant completely ignored the fact that the US and Saigon puppet administration had massively committed their troops to an armed aggression against Cambodia and were guilty of odious crimes against the Cambodian people. He did not either say anything against the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique of US henchmen's barbarous massacres of Khmer patriots and Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

Obviously, the UNO Secretary General's remarks only lent a hand to the US imperialists in their acts of aggression in Cambodia and to the Lon Nol-Matak clique of traitors.

They were only beneficial to their schemes to check the just struggle of the Khmer people and all the Indochinese peoples.

No wonder then that after U Thant had made the said statement US Secretary of State William Rogers readily "welcomed" them. Remarkably enough, U Thant made these remarks after the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples had pointed out that the Indochinese peoples "strongly condemn all attempts by the US, its agents and other Asian reactionaries to misuse the name of the UNO or any organization or any international or Asian conference to legitimize the illegal power of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionaries and to interfere in Cambodia."

As Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, said in his May 5 statement, "No one has any right to convene any international conference on the question of Cambodia, because Cambodia belongs to the Cambodians only."

TRUE FEATURES OF LON NOL-SIRIK MATAK REGIME

(SAMDECH N. SIHANOUK'S MESSAGE TO THE NATION)

We give below large excerpts from a message to the Khmer nation issued on May 6 by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia:

TODAY our nation finally realizes the true nature and true features of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak regime.

Its "democracy" is to give itself the right to massacre men and women citizens as it pleases, to deprive the people of their rights and freedom which the Constitution of the Kingdom has recognized and to appropriate the property of others at will.

Its "salvation of the economy" has resulted in sending the prices of foodstuffs and daily necessities soaring unceasingly, ruining the common people and making life extremely hard for the labouring masses. It has generated a flourishing "black market" and all kinds of extortions from the people and travellers by armed mercenaries.

Its "promise" to "bring" peace, happiness and prosperity to the nation found expression in nation-wide misery, catastrophe and war.

And this regime has the impudence to lay the blame for all these unimaginable misfortunes on me!

But public opinion in the world and the opinion of Heads of State, Ministers and Governments of big countries have done me justice and unanimously condemned the Lon Nol "government."

In this regard, allow me to provide you with some evidence:

A *Reuter* dispatch of May 3 reported President Tito as saying in a speech: "Prince Norodom Sihanouk has done all he could to prevent his country being dragged into a catastrophe."

According to an *AFP* dispatch of April 28, Mr. Maurice Schumann, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, has declared: "We thought of the sufferings of the friendly people... of Cambodia where the wise policy of Prince Norodom Sihanouk... had preserved peace and neutrality and where the recent events may trigger off a new conflict like that which has bathed Viet Nam in blood for so many years."

Again, an *AFP* cable of April 29 said the spokesman of the French government declared: "The change in the Phnom Penh power has compromised and damaged the image of Cambodia, as a neutral country for so long."

Senator Jacob Javits, though an American, had to state (in Washington last April 28): "The method of the new Cambodian government in seeking support is worrisome. The whipping up of racial chauvinistic emotion, culminating in mass slaughter among... civilians, is repugnant!"

The Washington Post, a big paper, showed utter contempt for its country's flunkeys in Phnom Penh in these lines in its April 20 editorial: "A government which invites battles it cannot fight, stirs community tension into civil war and acts in a way to shame those who support it is a poor bet."

The *Sunday Telegraph*, a big British paper, described on April 19 the policy of the Lon Nol regime as "hysterical," "monstrous" and "savage."

The Guardian, another important British paper, on April 17 termed it as "brutal and dangerous." It added: "The Americans... thus cause the final death of Cambodian neutrality... for the United States, to arm the Cambodians would be to put weapons in reckless and bloody hands."

Today, in the eyes of the Khmer nation and the whole world, Cambodia has become a real colony of the Americans.

The US forces (tens of thousands of Yankees and mercenaries) have shamelessly invaded our national territory. They have been killing peaceable civilians there, particularly in Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, Kratie (Snoul) and Rattanakiri. They have had even the insolence to proclaim that they reserve the right to occupy and oppress other provinces, Kompong Thom in particular.

The Lon Nol gang had incited young people and intellectuals of Phnom Penh to accuse me of "selling out the Motherland to the Vietnamese."

Today the truth is out: It is this very gang which has allowed more than 60,000 Thieu-Ky troops to violate the sovereignty of our country and occupy the province of Svay Rieng which the Saigonese had always dreamed of annexing.

It is this very gang which has allowed the American and mercenary armed forces to arrest, torture and murder savagely our fellow-countrymen, including old peasants, women and children, particularly in the provinces of Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, Kratie (Snoul) and Rattanakiri.

Everywhere they go in the villages, these enemies do not spare anything or anyone, they destroy and burn everything: houses, granaries, cattle-sheds, hen-houses and the fields. They confiscate the property of our people. They slaughter their cattle, pigs, chickens and ducks. (These details have been given by correspondents of the American press themselves.)

This is the national "salvation" of the barbarous Lon Nol government and its "national liberation" from the "yoke of the Vietnamese."

Moreover, not satisfied with authorizing all these crimes, Lon Nol and Sirik Matak invited B.52 heavy bombers and heavily armed helicopters of the US to bomb and strafe mercilessly night and day our provinces, their rural and urban centres, their plantations, rice fields and other fields, and the villages of our peasants which are deep in death, sorrow and despair.

Our Buddhist monks and our people have already learned of the proclamation of our new Government of National Union and the Political Programme of our FUNK which Samdech Penn Nouth, the National Congress, the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Front of our progressive and resisting people made public on May 5, 1970.

This excellent programme is the brain child of our elite and our progressive and unblemished intellectuals. Our Government, our administration and our liberation army will carry it out in close co-operation with our people in all the areas that we have liberated or are going to liberate from the yoke of the American imperialists and their Phnom Penh-Saigon flunkeys. In this way our people will be able to have a fully democratic life and a bright future.

To gain this noble end, everyone of us should accept all necessary sacrifices for the victory over the enemy.

The road to this victory may be long. But with our militant unity with the two other fraternal peoples of Indochina, we shall inevitably defeat US imperialism, our most ferocious enemy.

IN THE UNITED STATES

200,000 AMERICANS TAKE PART IN GIANT PROTEST AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA

THOUSANDS upon thousands of American youth and people on May 9 took part in a giant demonstration of protest against the Nixon administration's overt aggression in Indochina.

The demonstration organizers estimated the attendance at 200,000. They came from different cities of the United States, and from almost 300 universities and colleges of the country.

Students and young anti-war dissenters brought their anger to the White House, and the protesters filled a park area at the rear of the White House known as the Ellipse, within sight of US President Nixon's desk. They heard speakers denounce Nixon's military move into Cambodia.

Earlier, Nixon tried to placate the protesters by meeting a group of students after "having only an hour's sleep." But this was exposed by these students themselves. Miss Joan Pelletier said most of what the President said "was absurb."

Those who demonstrated in the afternoon wore black-arm bands of mourning. Many protesters carried four coffins as a sign of protest against the killing of four students at the Kent State University. Other carried flags of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

As Nixon talked, protesters paced in front of the north lawn of the White House, some of them chanting, others carrying lighted candles. Nixon's words were drowned out by chants of "one, two, three, four, we don't want your war." The demonstrators also carried posters and slogans saying "no" to war, and to repression.

"We are telling war hawks from the White House and the Pentagon that we want peace now," said a spokesman of the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam. "We want the war to end immediately and all American soldiers to come home from Southeast Asia," he said.

Among the speakers were Dr Benjamin Spock, a well-known public figure, Jane Fonda, the film actress, David Dellinger, one of the leaders of the anti-war movement, and many others. They all stressed that the present anti-war manifestations are a forceful indication of the desire of the American people for peace and ending of US aggression in Southeast Asia.

While the rally roared on, Nixon was in the White House, and the words of speakers were hurled at it by a powerful public address system, and if Nixon chose to listen, he could hear.

David Dellinger challenged the view expressed by Nixon that the demonstration was a "safety valve." "This is not a safety valve," Dellinger said. "This is no time for fun and games."

"We're here to back down the President," shouted Ron Young, co-ordinator of the rally for the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam. "We're here to back down the military. We're here to push them out of Viet Nam."

Another speaker shouted: "No more massacres in Viet Nam or in Kent, Ohio!" and repeatedly chanted: "Peace Now!"

Earlier, on May 8, more than 1,000 mourners, including Congressmen, clergy and a folk singer, crowded into a downtown Washington church for a memorial service for the four students killed at Kent State University.

MEANWHILE in Paris on May 9 a mammoth meeting and demonstration grouping about 250,000 French people from all part of the country was held in Vincennes. It was jointly sponsored by 44 political parties, trade-unions and organizations, among them the Communist Party and the Socialist Party. All the participants held a parade carrying banners demanding the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of US troops from Cambodia and South Viet Nam.

IN Australia tens of thousands of people took part in marches and rallies across the country on May 9 starting a three-day moratorium campaign against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam. Australia is among the US "allies" and satellites that have sent troops to help the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

IN West Berlin, about 10,000 young anti-war demonstrators waving red flags marched through the city, shouting, "Nixon—fascist—how many babies did you kill today?", "Americans out of Indochina!" The demonstrators hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at the "American" house, smashing dozens of its windows.

IN London, about 5,000 people held a meeting at Trafalgar Square on May 9 under the auspices of many British peace and progressive organizations to protest against the US aggression in Indochina.

IN Japan, about 7,000 workers and students marched by the US Embassy in Tokyo on the evening of May 9, shouting, "Americans, stop the aggression in Cambodia!" They also chanted other slogans demanding American withdrawal from the whole of Indochina.

THE same day, anti-US demonstrations hit Copenhagen, Helsinki, Geneva, Rawalpindi (Pakistan), with the numbers of participants ranging from several hundred to six thousand.

CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATED

A grand meeting to commemorate the 25th founding anniversary of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was held on the afternoon of May 8 in Hanoi by the Viet Nam Fatherland front CC and the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

It was attended by representatives of various political parties, mass organizations and administrative organs in Hanoi.

After the opening speech delivered by Nguyen Van Tran, Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Nguyen Khanh Toan, alternate member of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Chairman of the State Committee for Social Sciences, took the floor, warmly welcoming the big achievements recorded by the Czechoslovak people in the defence and building of socialism under the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, Nguyen Khanh Toan expressed profound gratitude to the Party, National Assembly, Government and people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for their valuable assistance and support to the Vietnamese people's anti-US struggle and socialist construction.

US imperialism in the United States: *4 students killed at Kent (May 4, 1970)...*

and in Viet Nam: *Sprawled bodies of victims at SON MY*

ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA, LAOS AND SOUTH VIET NAM

(Abridged version of an article in Quan Doi Nhan Dan, *the People's Army journal, May 13, 1970)*

IN CAMBODIA

SINCE the US-wirepulled Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique staged the March 18 coup d'état, the Khmer people almost across the country have risen up in a resolute political and armed struggle against the traitors and the US interventionists. By March 31, the drive had spread to 17 out of the 20 provinces of Cambodia.

The movement has become particularly intense since the US ordered its troops in South Viet Nam and Thieu - Ky troops to invade Cambodia. The aggressor troops include men of the US 4th Infantry Division, 25th Division, "Air Cav." Division and the 11th Armour Regiment, and puppet troops of the 5th, 22nd and 9th divisions, and elements of the puppet armoured, marine and paratroop forces. In a week (April 29 - May 6) up to 70,000 troops of the US and puppets invaded Cambodia. The operational theatre of the aggressor troops stretches over 400 kilometres from the Northeast to Southeast of Cambodia and the main directions of their attacks are Svay Rieng province (Parrot's Beak) and the area between Prey Veng and Kompong Cham provinces (Fish Hook).

However, the US and puppet troops have failed in saving the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique or in achieving the expected results. According to initial reports, since late March, the Cambodian patriotic armed forces have wiped out or disbanded over 10,000 enemy troops and liberated hundreds of hamlets and nearly 40 districts. *BBC* reported that within three weeks, 10 battalions of Lon Nol-Sirik Matak troops were put out of action, 10 encircled and pinned down and 9 others forced to fall back to defend a number of strategic positions.

IN LAOS

THE Lao patriotic armed forces and people have followed up their victory in the Plain of Jars - Xieng Khoang area, and inflicted stinging blows on the enemy. During the attacks on Phou Khuong and Huoi Thong, Luang Prabang province, they liberated 4,500 people and succeeded in winning over two rightist companies. The assaults on Borikhan and on the surroundings of Paksane have driven the US and puppets in Laos into a more precarious defensive posture. On April 28, the Lao armed forces and people liberated Attôpeu, an important provincial capital in the southernmost part of Laos near the borders with Viet Nam and Cambodia.

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

IN the first ten days of April, 1,200 powerful attacks were staged by popular forces on the enemy on all battlefronts. American troops of the 1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Infantry Division, the "Air Cav.", 25th, 101st and "American" Divisions, the 199th Brigade and the 11th Armour Regiment suffered heavy losses. So did many main-force units of the Saigon army such as the 7th and 9th Divisions and the "river fleet" units of the puppet marines. The South Viet Nam armed forces and people wiped out 50,000 enemy troops including nearly 20,000 GIs, wrote off or heavily decimated nearly 30 battalions and battalion-sized units and more than 100 US and puppet companies; destroyed over 1,200 military vehicles; shot down or wrecked on the ground over 500 aircraft; sank or set aflame nearly 80 war vessels and military cargo ships. They dismantled or caused serious dislocation to more than half of the total number of "strategic hamlets," dealing a hard blow at the enemy's "rural pacification" plan.

The enemy admitted that every night in the six days ending May 5, from 38 to 77 of their positions were struck at by the liberation forces. Many positions and bases of the US and puppet troops involved in the aggression in Cambodia came under fire.

DRVN Foreign Ministry Statement

(*Continued from page* 8)

the joint declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples the Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN sternly condemn the so-called "Asian Conference on Cambodia" and declare that all resolutions and recommendations to be adopted by it will be regarded as illegal, null and void.

The brute force and craftiness of the US imperialists have failed in staving off their setbacks in Indochina. This is a certainty. In the face of the united strength and firm determination to fight and to win of the three Indochinese peoples who enjoy strong sympathy and support from the world's peoples, all vicious actions of the agents of the US and the Asian reactionaries to serve the US war of aggression in Cambodia and Indochina will also end in dismal failure.

Hanoi, May 15, 1970

Political Programme

(*Continued from page* 4)

the liberation and the defence of each country are the affairs of her own people and that the three peoples pledge to do their best to support one another according to the desire of the interested country, on the basis of mutual respect. In addition, Cambodia is ready for concerted efforts with Laos and Viet Nam to make Indochina genuinely a zone of independence, peace and progress, where each nation preserves its integral sovereignty, with the sympathy and support of the peoples and governments of the socialist countries, non-aligned countries and peace - and justice-loving countries in the world, including the American people.

"The FUNK expresses full support for the struggle of the peoples of the world for peace, independence, democracy and social progress, against the aggressive and warlike American imperialists, against old and new colonialism in all its forms. It voices unqualified backing for the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for independence and freedom, the struggle of the Chinese people for the recovery of Taiwan, an integral part of the People's Republic of China, the struggle of the Korean people against the American imperialist aggressors and for the liberation of the Southern part of their country and the reunification of Korea, the struggle of the Arab people, the Palestinian people in particular, for their fundamental national rights against the Israeli aggressors in the pay of the American imperialists, the struggle of the American people against the war of aggression, against racial discrimination and for peace and their genuine interests, etc."

66th Plenary Session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam (May 14, 1970)

NIXON's RECENT DEEDS AND STATEMENTS BETRAY HIS BELLICOSE NATURE

Says DRVN Negotiator

ANALYZING Nixon's recent deeds in Indochina and his recent statements, especially in his April 30 address and May 8 press conference, Mr Nguyen Minh Vy, on behalf of the DRVN Government delegation, again laid bare at the 66th session of the Paris Conference the bellicose nature, obstinacy and trickiness of the Nixon administration.

He said: "At no time since it took office has the Nixon administration really meant to settle peacefully the Viet Nam problem on a fair and just basis such as suggested in the ten-point overall solution advanced a year ago by the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government. On the contrary it has always nurtured the wild hopes of gaining a military victory and of negotiating from a position of strength and of achieving US neo-colonialist goals not only in South Viet Nam but also in Laos and Cambodia."

After denouncing not only the Nixon administration's reluctance to end the war rapidly and to completely and unconditionally withdraw US troops from South Viet Nam, but also its escalation of the war in Laos, the March 18, 1970 coup d'état in Phnom Penh, its masterminding of armed aggression against Cambodia, and large-scale air raids against Quang Binh and Nghe An provinces in the DRVN in the first days of May, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy recalled that the US commitment to a total and unconditional halt of its bombardments against the DRVN had led to the convening of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. The bombings by the US against the territory of the DRVN during the first days of May seriously jeopardized the Paris Conference. If the US continued its air strikes against North Viet Nam, the delegation of the Government of the DRVN would feel compelled to draw the necessary conclusions. The US must bear full responsibility for all the grave consequences arising from its acts, the DRVN spokesman concluded.

South Viet Nam in Brief

15 Puppet Prisoners Released

ON April 26, 1970, the Revolutionary People's Committee of Binh Dai district, Ben Tre province (Mekong Delta) set free 11 puppet armymen captured at Soai Bong, *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported.

On April 9, at Dak Sieng (Western High Plateaux) 4 others were also released on the spot shortly after their capture.

Revolutionary People's Committee Set Up in Cai Lay

ON April 22, a Revolutionary People's Committee of 7 members (including 2 women) was set up at Cai Lay district capital, My Tho province, on Highway No 4, the only communication line linking Saigon to the provinces and towns in the Mekong Delta.

INCRIMINATING FIGURES

(*Continued from page* 8)

(containing a total of 260,000 anti-personnel steel pellets). The rate of air raids had been accelerated: 17 raids in January 1969 and 139 in February 1970 (thirteen months later). In the first four days of May US aircraft made 270 sorties, poured 700 explosive bombs and tens of thousands of steel-pellet bombs on civilian targets in the southern provinces of North Viet Nam. B.52s repeatedly struck at Quang Binh and Vinh Linh areas, dumped on them 12,000 tons of explosives by "carpet bombing," Western press reported.

US naval artillery and long-range guns based South of the demarcation line lobbed 7,000 105mm and 406mm shells on nine villages of Vinh Linh.

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON

SO-CALLED "ASIAN CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA"

ACCORDING to foreign reports, the so-called "Asian Conference on Cambodia," advocated by Indonesia, is meeting in Djakarta in the forthcoming days. It will be attended by Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and the US stooge administrations in South Korea, Vientiane, Saigon and Phnom Penh.

As everybody knows, since the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, the US imperialists have engaged in unceasing encirclements, provocations and subversive activities against Cambodia in an attempt to turn it into a military base and a neo-colony. By the agency of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, they engineered the March 18, 1970 coup d'état, and installed in Phnom Penh a fascist and racialist administration with a view to undermining the independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia, opposing the Khmer people, and checking the patriotic movement of the Indochinese peoples. In warm response to the sacred appeal for national salvation issued by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk on March 23, 1970, the Khmer people have risen up all over the country with the firm resolve to overthrow the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak administration and have won dramatic successes. The Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples attended by genuine representatives of the Khmer, Lao and Vietnamese peoples strongly condemned the US imperialists' intervention and aggression in Cambodia and expressed unreserved support to the Khmer people's just fight which is bound to end in victory.

Confronted with the imminent collapse of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, the US imperialists have impudently committed US and Saigon puppet troops to an invasion of Cambodia while attempting to misuse the name of the UNO, other international organizations and international conferences to further their plans for aggression.

The so-called "Asian Conference on Cambodia" is part and parcel of the above scheme of the US imperialists. All its participants are members of US-directed organizations opposed to the Asian peoples such as US set up military blocs or US-bossed military alliances like SEATO and ANZUS, and such regional organizations as ASEAN and ASPAC. They have contributed troops to the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and Laos, have served directly or supported the US war of aggression in Cambodia and Viet Nam. In particular, the presence of the Saigon puppet clique who have been carrying out the US plan for aggression in Cambodia, burning down Cambodian villages and killing Cambodians and Vietnamese residents has borne out all the more clearly the reactionary character of this conference.

With the exception of a handful of lackeys and satellites of the United States, the Asian countries have refused to participate in it.

Obviously, the so-called "Asian Conference on Cambodia" which brings together lackeys and satellites of the US and reactionaries is intended to serve US aggression in Cambodia, to give a legal cover to the reactionary, illegal Lon Nol-Sirik Matak administration which is facing the danger of collapse, to intensify crude intervention in Cambodia and to carry out the US scheme to "make Asians fight Asians."

At present, an unprecedentedly powerful wave of protest is sweeping the US and the world, the peoples are sternly condemning US war expansion and are demanding an immediate end to US aggression in Cambodia and an immediate US withdrawal from Indochina and Southeast Asia. The holding of a conference on Cambodia by "de-Asianized Asians, Americanized Asians, and servile Asian clients of the US as well as sham Asians," as Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk put it, is clearly a most insolent challenge to the peoples of Cambodia, Asia and the world. The joint declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples has exposed and severely castigated these schemes of the US, its agents and the Asian reactionaries.

As a participant in the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, and loyal to

(Continued page 7)

NIXON'S SOPHISTRIES

NIXON'S May 8 press conference was aimed at soothing public opinion—first and foremost in the United States — which was visibly disturbed by US intensification of the war in Indochina, more particularly by its open aggression against Cambodia and large-scale bombing of two North Viet Nam provinces.

But as a UPI *correspondent put it, if the US President's "tone of voice" had changed, his policies remained the same.*

Indeed, Nixon did not use abusive terms as he had done a few days ago when referring to the anti-war movement, he even acknowledged its intensity and went to the length of repeating again and again that he was for the American people's right to dissent — forgetting that the Ohio police had just killed 4 protesting students.

In Nixon's logic, to commit US troops to an aggression against Cambodia is tantamount to "respecting [this country's] neutrality" and "reducing American casualties," whereas to bomb DRVN localities means to "serve the cause of a just peace."

Nixon very philosophically stated that "history will record whether it was worthwhile" to send young Americans to die in Southeast Asia. But there is no need to wait so long to see that the war waged by Nixon against the Indochinese peoples is an aggressive, neo colonialist one and that it is doomed to failure.

Nixon said, "I have been working 18 or 20 hours a day mostly on Viet Nam." People may ask why it took him so much time when he had just to take a decision to stop that unjust war and bring home the American boys. Obviously Nixon spent 18 or 20 hours a day only to hatch plans to prolong the fighting, carry out his neo-colonialist policy and fool public opinion.

At one point, Nixon showed he surpassed Johnson in truculence, that is when he declared that he would "move decisively and not step by step" as did Johnson — in war escalation.

Nixon's statements were understandably given a hostile reception by public opinion. Representative Brown in recalling Nixon's promises that the first units of GIs would leave Cambodia in the middle of next week, added ironically that these had already left, but only "in caskets." As for the commentator of BBC, *he was more straightfoward in remarking that Nixon's arguments carried only little conviction!*

INCRIMINATING FIGURES

ON last May 11, on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the 1st session of the Bertrand Russell International Tribunal (held in Stockholm from May 2 to 10, 1967 to try US war crimes in Viet Nam) a press conference was organized in Hanoi by the Commission for Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam.

In his statement Lawyer Pham Van Bach, Chairman of the Commission, made known figures concerning the crimes committed by the US aggressors since Nixon's taking office at the White House:

IN SOUTH VIET NAM

THE US invaders have launched 20,000 battalion-size sweeps most of which were as atrocious as the Son My massacre.

In the first ten months of 1969, the quantity of bombs dumped on South Viet Nam wellnigh equalled that dropped on Europe during the Second World War (1,388,000 tons as against 1,544,000 tons). The utilization of B.52s was most extensive: in 1969 2,600,000 bombs were released over South Viet Nam by these giant bombers.

Chemical warfare was also stepped up: in 1969 alone, the toxic chemicals sprayed affected 1,086,000 hectares of crop land and orchards, and poisoned 342,800 people.

In 1970 these activities have not been reduced.

IN NORTH VIET NAM

FROM January 20, 1969 to April 30, 1970 US reconnaissance planes violated the air space of all towns and cities 17,360 times. The number of sorties has been increasing with every passing month: 700 in January 1969, 900 in December 1969 and 2,000 in April 1970.

In the period under review 937 air attacks were mounted against the localities lying between the 17th and 20th parallels with 10,000 explosive bombs and 520 CBU's

(Continued page 7)

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS

★ On the night of May 7, nearly all enemy bases and positions in towns, district or provincial capitals, and in the provinces between north of Quang Nam and south of Khanh Hoa about 550 km (along the coast) were pounded by PLAF artillery.

★ On May 9, 10 and the night of May 12, 114 bases and positions were bombarded (Western reports).

★ **Gia Lai province**: The chopper carrying 2-star general John A.B. Dillard, commanding US Seabee forces in Viet Nam, was downed by PLAF batteries. He was the 6th American general killed in Viet Nam.

A motorized vehicle compound and a US officers' billet were stormed on the night of May 3, an enemy convoy ambushed on Road No 19 on May 6: 92 vehicles destroyed, 110 enemy troops put out of action (35 officers).

★ **An Giang province**: 19 enemy bases and positions in Tri Ton and Tinh Bien districts assaulted: over 500 enemy casualties, 4 aircraft grounded, 4 cannons destroyed, a fuel depot burnt (May 3).

★ **Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces**: Base of puppet First Division in Hue city hit: 100 casualties (May 5).

500 enemy troops put out of action in a series of PLAF onsets mounted between May 3 and 9.

★ **Quang Nam province**: Que Son military sub-sector: over 200 enemy soldiers wiped out (including 60 wicked thugs) and 3 logistic depots destroyed (May 6).